

behalf of railroads, barge operators, ocean-going ships, and California gasoline terminals assure that ample shipping and storage capacity exists today to move ethanol from the Midwest to California markets.

I agree with my colleagues that MTBE is a danger to public health. That is why earlier this year I introduced legislation that protects the environment and public safety by totally and immediately banning the use of MTBE as a fuel additive across the United States. The Clean Air Act has done a good job in curbing dangerous emissions, and a key part of this success has been the oxygenate requirement. For the sake of keeping the air clean in California and across the United States, we cannot allow this requirement to be scaled back or waived. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to vote against the Cox amendment.

SECURING AMERICA'S FUTURE ENERGY ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill. (H.R. 4) to enhance energy conservation, research and development and to provide for security and diversity in the energy supply for the American people, and for other purposes.

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to H.R. 4, the Securing America's Future Energy Act of 2001. This bill grants expensive new subsidies to virtually every energy sector without offsets and does little to promote much cheaper energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies. This bill will cost \$34 billion and because no offsets are provided it will threaten the Medicare and Social Security trust funds.

This bill does nothing to relieve the suffering of the citizens of California. California's crisis is a precursor of what is to come for the rest of America as we fail to produce an energy policy which is balanced. California consumers paid \$7 billion for electricity in 1999. In 2000, that number went up to record highs and Californians paid \$27 billion for electricity. It is expected that the number could go up to \$70 billion in 2001. I am concerned that minority business owners in my district will suffer greatly due to the high costs of energy.

I am dismayed that this bill will do nothing to stop the outrageous price gouging by out-of-state energy producers to California consumers. In fact, the administration and my Republican colleagues are unwilling to carry out its obligation to ensure that energy prices are just and reasonable, claiming that uncontrolled market prices are needed in order to increase the energy supply. That's like saying that we must pay dairy farmers \$300/gallon to produce milk.

This bill will not provide one more kilowatt to California this summer, prevent one less minute of blackouts, or keep one less dollar from being transferred from California into the hands of the energy producers.

I am concerned about the environmental ramifications of this energy bill. We must look into renewable energy programs, rather than

reverse a decade old U.S. policy against reprocessing commercial nuclear fuel and allow for new drilling on public lands without royalty payments. This bill fails to guarantee a significant increase in clean, renewable energy or energy efficient products. For example, the bill fails to require significant improvement in the efficiency of air conditioners, and fails to address peak power demands of other major appliances.

Moreover, we must amend this bill because it would allow for drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Instead, we must utilize current American sources that are already open for drilling. After 6 years of energy inaction on behalf of the Republican Congress, this bill follows the same old path: cast blame, insist on extreme antienvironmental proposals, and declare themselves powerless in offering relief to Americans facing record-breaking energy price increases.

I believe in a balanced, comprehensive and cost-efficient energy program that meets America's energy needs through increased production and efficiency that puts the interests of consumers first and protects the environment. This omnibus energy package does little to address America's future energy needs and I want to urge my colleagues to vote no on H.R. 4.

SECURING AMERICA'S FUTURE ENERGY ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill. (H.R. 4) to enhance energy conservation, research and development and to provide for security and diversity in the energy supply for the American people, and for other purposes.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the managers Amendment and HR 4 which does not really secure America's energy future at all. This bill is a bad bill, largely because it favors energy exploration and production at the expense of the environment and conservation. As we seek to secure our country's energy future as the title of this bill refers, we must take into account the social and environmental costs of energy development and also remember that negative impacts on the environment in one part of our world can also affect other, even far-off, parts of the world.

Instead of securing America's future, HR 4 threatens the future of Alaska's and one of this country's most pristine and beloved natural resources. It cuts back on clean air standards, and opens up more public lands to mining and drilling, while relieving the oil companies, which already have registered humungous profits, of their responsibility for paying the American people what they owe for the right to drill on our lands.

Mr. Chairman, on ANWR, what those who support drilling there do not say, is that 95% of the Alaskan wilderness is available for drilling. We must preserve this fragile and important small 5% in the Wildlife Refuge and use the rest to drill to increase our oil and natural

gas supply, and still create the jobs our workers need.

Mr. Chairman, the Resources Committee, on which I serve as Ranking Member of the National Parks and Public Lands Subcommittee, reported an Energy bill, two weeks ago, which represented nothing more than a "grab bag of goodies" for the big oil companies and an unprecedented assault on our country's precious natural resources.

During consideration of the bill, I supported a substitute amendment offered by the Ranking Democrat, Mr. RAHALL that provided a far better solution to the concerns over energy production in our country. This amendment would have ensured that more domestic energy is introduced into the domestic market, would relieve transmission constraints for our western States, encouraged renewable energy on federal lands, assured fairness in oil royalties, and protect our environment and our nation's monuments and parks.

The Rahall substitute would have also provided for a significant number of new jobs by facilitating the construction of the Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline originally authorized in 1976. This provision would enhance the delivery of 35 trillion cubic feet of natural gas already discovered in existing development fields, and the Rahall substitute would require that a project labor agreement govern construction activities on the pipeline.

Sadly, Mr. Chairman, the Rules Committee prevented Mr. RAHALL and other Democrats from offering perfecting amendments, which means that much of what the Rahall substitute would have provided, will not be allowed today.

H.R. 4, does include one aspect of the Rahall substitute which would update a nearly twenty-year-old assessment of energy importation, consumption, and alternative indigenous sources that can be used by insular areas. A new part of this reassessment will be a recommendation and a plan to protect energy transmission and distribution lines from the effects of hurricanes and typhoons. The amendment also gives the Interior Secretary the authority to fund such recommendations.

We are all aware of the tragedy and destruction a hurricane or typhoon brings once it reaches land. The majority of Americans become aware of such a storm when it heads up the eastern seaboard or makes it way inland from the Gulf of Mexico. They are awesome and dangerous. And there is not much that can be done when it is headed your way. Those of us whose districts have been in the path of such storms can attest to the devastation.

The Virgin Islands are affected by the strongest of storms, like Georges and Hugo that eventually make their way to the U.S. mainland. But we are also all too frequently a target for lesser known hurricanes that never make it out of the Caribbean Basin but still manage to inflict just as much damage as those that reach Florida.

Some of the costliest destruction during these events in the Virgin Islands and the other offshore areas is to electrical infrastructure. Island-wide outages are common in the wake of a storm because our lines are not as hardened as they could be from a storm's strength. Ideally, in any location that experiences as much hurricane activity as my district, transmission lines should be buried underground. To have the majority of our electrical lines above ground poses a great threat